

Clean Version of the Entire Set of Pending Claims

- 1 1. An apparatus comprising:
2 an encoder to encode data having a first format into a string of
3 data having a second format, the first and second formats being different;
4 a packetizer coupled to the encoder to packetize the string of
5 data into at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first
6 format; and
7 a decoder coupled to the packetizer to decode the at least one
8 packet back into the data having the first format.

- 1 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the decoder comprises a
2 detector to detect the second format and a converter to convert
3 the string of data back into the data having the first format.

- 1 3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the at least one packet is
2 transmitted to a network supporting the second format.

- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the network comprises an
2 instant messaging (IM) infrastructure.

- 1 5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the second format is an
2 American Standard Code of Information Interchange (ASCII)
3 format.

- 1 6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the data having the first
2 format is ink input data.
- 1 7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the ink input data is obtained
2 from is one of a touch-screen, a digitizer, a tablet, and a mouse.
- 1 8. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:
2 an encoder to encode data having a first format into a string of
3 data having a second format, the first and second formats being
4 different; and
5 a packetizer coupled to the encoder to packetize the string of
6 data into at least one packet having a header, the header
7 identifying the first format, the at least one packet being
8 transmitted to a network, the network transmitting the packet to
9 a decoder.
- 1 9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the decoder comprises a
2 detector to detect the second format.
- 1 10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the decoder decodes the
2 string of data back into the data having the first format.
- 1 11. A method comprising:
2 encoding data having a first format into a string of data having a

3 second format, the first and second formats being different;
4 packetizing the string of data into at least one packet having a
5 header, the header identifying the first format; and
6 decoding the at least one packet back into the data having the
7 first format.

1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the decoding comprises
2 detecting the second format and converting the string of data into
3 the data having the first format.

1 13. The method of claim 11 wherein the at least one packet is
2 transmitted to a network supporting the second format.

1 14. The method of claim 13 wherein the network comprises an
2 instant messaging (IM) infrastructure.

1 15. The method of claim 11 wherein the second format is an
2 American Standard Code of Information Interchange (ASCII) format.

1 16. The method of claim 11 wherein the data having the first format
2 is ink input data.

1 17. The method of claim 16 wherein the ink input data is obtained
2 from is one of a touch-screen, a digitizer, a tablet, and a mouse.

1 18. (Amended) A method comprising:
2 encoding data having a first format into a string of data having a
3 second format, the first and second formats being different; and
4 packetizing string of data into at least one packet having a
5 header, the header identifying the first format, the at least one
6 packet being transmitted to a network, the network transmitting
7 the packet to a decoder.

1 19. The method of claim 18 wherein decoding comprises detecting
2 the second format.

1 20. The method of claim 19 wherein decoding comprises decoding
2 the string of data back into the data having the first format.

1 21. A computer program product comprising:
2 a computer usable medium having computer program code embodied
3 therein, the computer program product having:
4 computer readable program code for encoding data having a
5 first format into a string of data having a second format, the first and second
6 formats being different;
7 computer readable program code for packetizing the string of
8 data into at least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first
9 format; and
10 computer readable program code for decoding the at least one

11 packet back into the data having the first format.

1 22. (Amended) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein
2 the computer readable program code for decoding comprises
3 computer readable program code for detecting the second format and
4 converting the string of data into the data having the first format.

1 23. (Amended) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein
2 the at least one packet is transmitted to a network supporting the
3 second format.

1 24. (Amended) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein
2 the network comprises an instant messaging (IM) infrastructure.

1 25. (Amended) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein
2 the second format is an American Standard Code of Information
3 Interchange (ASCII) format.

1 26. (Amended) The computer program product of claim 21 wherein
2 the data having the first format is an ink-input data.

1 27. (Amended) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein
2 the ink input data is obtained from is one of a touch-screen, a
3 digitizer, a tablet, and a mouse.

1 28. A computer program product comprising:
2 a computer usable medium having computer program code embodied
3 therein, the computer program product having:
4 computer readable program code for encoding data having a
5 first format into a string of data having a second format, the
6 first and second formats being different; and
7 computer readable program code for packetizing string of data
8 into at least one packet having a header, the header identifying
9 the first format, the at least one packet being transmitted to a
10 network, the network transmitting the packet to a decoder.

1 29. (Amended) The computer program product of claim 28 wherein
2 computer readable program code for decoding comprises computer
3 readable program code for detecting the second format.

1 30. (Amended) The computer program product of claim 29 wherein
2 computer readable program code for decoding comprises computer
3 readable program code for decoding the string of data back into the data
4 having the first format.